

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA UTILITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES AND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

WHEREAS, the citizens and environment of South Florida will benefit from the implementation of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Projects associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP);

WHEREAS, the proposed CERP ASR components include 333 ASR wells, an unprecedented scale for implementation of this technology;

WHEREAS, further research is warranted to ensure that injection of surface waters that may contain microorganisms into Florida's aquifers will not impact public health and water supplies;

WHEREAS, there does not appear to be another storage technology available that can provide multi-year storage to improve or manage for drought conditions, such as those experienced by Florida during the last year and a half;

WHEREAS, since ASR technology is not subject to evapotranspiration and requires only an acre or two per ASR well system, it provides significant cost-effective benefits beyond those achievable by above-ground reservoirs already proposed in CERP;

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA UTILITY COUNCIL THAT:

- The Southeast Florida Utility Council supports ongoing efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District, to proceed in a cautious, methodical manner to answer the many questions about implementing ASR technology, including the concerns about the fate of microorganisms in aquifers;
- 2. The combined strategy of (a) conducting three CERP ASR pilot projects at Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River, and Western Hillsboro Basin, as well as a City of West Palm Beach demonstration project, and (b) evaluating the projected impacts of the proposed 333 ASR wells on the environment and existing water users through an ASR Regional Study, is an appropriate way to address these technical issues; and,
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and South Florida Water Management District are urged to conduct the necessary data collection and scientific studies to truly evaluate the ASR technology for the benefit of Everglades Restoration and long-term regional water supplies as outlined in the CERP.

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